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CURRENT SUPPORT MEMORANDUM

CZECHOSLOVAKIAN CIVIL DEFENSE RADIO NETWORK

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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CZECHOSLOVAKIAN CIVIL DEFENSE RADIO NETWORK

A country-wide network, believed to have been especially developed to serve civil defense, has been in operation in Czechoslovakia since early 1954. Controlled from Prague (and from Bratislava for Slovakia), the network comprises more than twenty stations which

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Available evidence still strongly suggests that the function of the network is to provide a standby communications structure for the Czechoslovakian civil defense system.

The appearance of civil defense radio networks is a logical development. The United States, for example, has included in its civil defense plans the recruitment of amateur radio operators and the use of their equipment for emergency communications. 6/

In view of their generally parallel development in civil defense and paramilitary organization, it is believed that other Sovbloc nations have evolved, or will develop, radio networks similar to the one found in Czechoslovakia. The obvious nucleus for such operations is to be found in the various paramilitary societies which sponsor radio amateur activity and civil defense training.

The USSR, in particular, because of its position of leadership in bloc civil defense and paramilitary matters, should have long since initiated the preparation of emergency civil defense radio communications. Theoretical Soviet civil defense literature calls for the use of radio communications, 7/ and Soviet radio amateurs, encouraged and trained in the paramilitary DOSAAF (Society for

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Cooperation with the Army, Air Force and Navy), should be capable of
furnishing the necessary personnel.



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